

MORELS IN OCTOBER IN MASSACHUSETTS.

JULIA WINGATE SHERMAN.

PRIZING mushrooms for their esculent qualities and having the mushroom hunger upon me, I went out the first of October to gather some *Tricholoma personatum*.

After having filled a large paper bag with that species and about a quart of *Marasmius oreades* — which has been conspicuously abundant the past season — I started for home well satisfied with my luck, looking forward to the enjoyment of these delicacies. As I was passing some recently turned soil where a granolithic sidewalk had been made, my attention was arrested by some morels growing at my feet. I picked about a dozen of varying size and shape.

When I reached home I attempted to look them up. I could find no records of morels being found in the autumn, nor could I find any description of a species which agreed perfectly with the specimens found. I put the morels in a white enamel plate to dry near the gas range. They gave off spores freely. These were of a rich pinkish yellow, apricot, I think it would be called.

At short intervals during the month I visited the locality where the morels grew. I found in all about seventy-five. The last were picked October 28th. Although I looked for them several times later none were found.

While I was inclined to think they were a form of *Morchella conica*, I could not completely identify them with that species owing to their manner of growth and to other peculiarities, for only the smaller ones were conical. As they increased in size the growth became lateral in cap and stem. About fifty per cent had an opening in the apex about a quarter of an inch in diameter.

They varied in size from the smaller conical ones, about the size of a lady's little finger, to the large broad ones, about twice the size of a hen's egg. The color of the pits, in fresh specimens, was smoky and dark; in some nearly elephant gray. The edges of the ridges between the pits were white or creamy, forming a beautiful contrast of color. The stem was larger at the base than at the top, which was wrinkled and brownish and rather squamulose or scurfy. Inside the morel was creamy white.

The location of these morels was peculiar. Many were growing on or near rocks. Only the small amount of clayey subsoil, which had adhered to the rocks, on their being thrown aside, made their growth possible. One large specimen was growing from the side of a square paving stone of granite. This clayey subsoil had been thrown under an elm tree by workmen who had recently completed the sidewalk mentioned. All the morels were found in a space of about fifteen square feet.

Specimens which I sent to Dr. Charles H. Peck of Albany, New York, for examination proved to be the first living morels he had ever seen in October. He found the spores from dried specimens to agree well with those of *M. conica*, although a few ran up to $32 \times 20 \mu$ in size.

The specimens ran smaller than typical *M. conica* and the scurf on the stem was darker colored. The color of the hymenium and the whitening of the edges of the ridges, the lateral growth and the tendency of all the larger ones to depart from the conical form, and the opening of the apex have led Dr. Peck to consider this plant a distinct variety, of which a description may be looked for in his next report. Hereafter, then, it will do no harm to look for morels in the fall.

Dr. Peck writes: "I have not before known of a morel appearing in autumn, and it may be an interesting question whether this should be considered a belated early summer form, or an extraordinary precocious spring form or an autumnal form pure and simple. If it never appears except in autumn I think it should be deemed worthy of specific distinction instead of varietal. Further observations must settle this."

ROSLINDALE, MASSACHUSETTS.

[Specimens of this collection are in the herbarium of the Boston Mycological Club.]

SOLIDAGO CALCICOLA IN VERMONT.

GEORGE L. KIRK.

WHILE botanizing on Mount Killington in September, 1910, in company with Harold G. Rugg of Hanover, N. H., and D. Lewis Dutton of Brandon, Vt., I found growing in an open spot by the road-